2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

4 May 2005

Original: English

New York, 2-27 May 2005

Implementation of article VI and paragraph 4 (c) of the 1995 Decision on "Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament"

Report submitted by the Republic of Korea

As stated in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I and II)), in paragraph 15, subparagraph 12 of the section entitled "Article VI and eighth to twelfth preambular paragraphs", the Conference agreed upon the submission of regular reports, within the framework of the strengthened review process for the Non-Proliferation Treaty, by all States parties on the implementation of article VI and paragraph 4 (c) of the 1995 Decision on "Principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament". Pursuant to this decision, the Republic of Korea hereby submits its updated report to the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The present report follows the first and second reports of the Republic of Korea to the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference, submitted in 2003 and 2004 respectively.

1. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) remains the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime and the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament. Under current circumstances, in which cases of non-compliance with the Treaty and its safeguards systems and the emergence of a clandestine international network for the procurement of nuclear materials and technology have undermined the integrity and credibility of the Treaty, and in light of the growing threat of nuclear terrorism amid the recent increase in terrorist activities around the world, the need to fortify and preserve the efficacy and integrity of the Treaty has become more crucial than ever.

2. As a non-nuclear-weapon State, the Republic of Korea continues to abide by its commitment, pursuant to the Treaty, not to receive the transfer of, receive control over, manufacture or acquire nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

3. The Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference marked a significant achievement in the field of nuclear disarmament. The guidelines laid out in the Final Document serve not only as a measuring stick to gauge progress in this field, but

05-33323 (E) 110505

also as a road map for achieving the ultimate goal of nuclear disarmament. Since the adoption of the Final Document in 2000, expectations have been ever-increasing for progress on the implementation of disarmament and transparency measures on the part of the nuclear-weapon States. The five nuclear-weapon States should put their unequivocal commitment to disarmament into action by making systematic and progressive efforts. However, it should also be recognized that nuclear disarmament is a dynamic and complex process that is inextricably connected to the international security environment.

4. The Republic of Korea attaches great importance to the achievement of an early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. The Republic of Korea signed the Treaty when it opened for signature on 24 September 1996 and deposited its instrument of ratification on 24 September 1999. The Republic of Korea continues to encourage other States to ratify this Treaty, particularly those States whose ratification is necessary for its entry into force at the earliest possible date. In an effort to promote the early entry into force of the Treaty, the Republic of Korea has served as a friend of the Chair for the facilitation of the Treaty's early entry into force. It is our firm belief that existing moratoriums on nuclear testing by all countries must be maintained, while sustained support is being accorded to the early establishment of the effective monitoring mechanism of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization. In this regard, the Republic of Korea is actively participating in the development of the International Monitoring System of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, particularly through the cooperation of its seismological monitoring station, one of the primary stations in the North-East Asian region.

5. The Republic of Korea attaches great importance to the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral forum for negotiating disarmament agreements. It is regrettable that the Conference has not yet been able to break the impasse that has kept it from beginning substantive work. As a next logical step towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, it is imperative for the Conference to begin negotiations immediately on a universal and verifiable fissile material cut-off treaty.

6. The Republic of Korea fully supports the essential role of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as a competent authority responsible for the verification and assurance of compliance with NPT obligations. The Republic of Korea continues to urge those States which have not yet done so to bring into force comprehensive safeguards agreements with IAEA. To strengthen the Agency's effectiveness in verifying compliance and detecting actions of non-compliance, it is important to promote the universality of the Additional Protocol to the IAEA Safeguards Agreement. For its part, the Republic of Korea notified IAEA on 19 February 2004 of the completion of its internal procedure for the ratification of the Additional Protocol. As a result, the Republic of Korea has become the thirty-ninth country to bring the Protocol into force. Pursuant to the Additional Protocol, the Republic of Korea submitted its initial declarations to the IAEA Director General on 17 August 2004.

7. The Republic of Korea welcomes progress on the development and implementation of nuclear-weapon-free-zone agreements. At the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly, the Republic of Korea lent its support to resolutions establishing or consolidating nuclear-weapon-free zones. Furthermore, the Republic

of Korea continues to uphold its commitments to the Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula adopted in 1992.

8. The Republic of Korea welcomes the entry into force in June 2003 of the Treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation on Strategic Offensive Reductions (Moscow Treaty). It is expected that such progress in bilateral nuclear reductions agreements will facilitate similar disarmament initiatives in the future.

9. The Republic of Korea joined in the Group of Eight Global Partnership in 2004 to support international efforts to prevent the spread of weapons and materials of mass destruction. The Republic of Korea allocated US$ 500,000 for Global Partnership projects for 2005 and another US$ 710,000 for the International Science and Technology Centre in Moscow for 2004-2005.

10. The Republic of Korea recognizes that strengthening relevant export control regimes is a useful step towards the effective prevention of nuclear proliferation. These mechanisms should continue to be strengthened. As of 1 January 2003, the Government of the Republic of Korea introduced the catch-all system into its legal framework and has been implementing it accordingly. The Republic of Korea also made every effort to strengthen the nuclear export control regime during its chairmanship of the Nuclear Suppliers Group from May 2003 to May 2004 and since then has actively participated in activities of the Group's Troika to contribute to that end.

11. The Republic of Korea supports Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) to deal with the illicit trafficking of weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and related materials. Pursuant to the resolution, the Republic of Korea submitted its first implementation report on 27 October 2004.

12. The Republic of Korea also attaches great importance to the Missile Technology Control Regime as a means of preventing the spread of missiles and related technologies that can be used for the delivery of weapons of mass destruction. The Republic of Korea joined the Regime in March 2001 and has held its chairmanship since October 2004, when the 19th plenary meeting of the Regime was held in the Republic of Korea.

13. In December 2004, in cooperation with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, the Republic of Korea hosted its third annual Jeju Process on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation. The theme for 2004 was "How to address challenges in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation today".